



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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October 23, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

JAIL FACILITIES PLAN: FORTHCOMING REVISION

On August 1, 2006, your Board approved a Jail Facility Plan to address issues of inmate overcrowding and safety in the County's jail system (Plan). While substantial progress has been made in the Plan's development, programming challenges and subsequent issues related to Men's Central Jail will require your Board to consider a revision to the previously approved Plan. A revised Plan (Revised Plan) is currently being finalized which will provide:

- finalized facility programs for the previously approved female inmate facilities at the Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) and Sybil Brand Institute (SBI) and a new facility program for the female inmate reception center and female mental health inmates;
- a conceptual facility plan for Men's Central Jail that addresses concerns of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Federal court;
- updated project schedules and estimates of one-time capital and ongoing operating costs; and
- A recommended funding plan that will allow your Board to manage the timing of the Revised Plan's implementation within available County resources.

We plan to brief your deputies on the details of the Revised Plan during the week of November 13, 2007 and present our recommendations to your Board on November 27, 2007.

Background

The Plan initially authorized by your Board provided for an increase of 2,880 beds for male inmates, including 1,625 high-security beds, and 436 beds for female inmates. The increase in high security beds will allow the Sheriff to better align cell configurations with inmate security classification and ultimately enhance inmate security. The Plan entails the transfer of female inmates from the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to new female barracks at PDC and a refurbished SBI. High-security male inmates will subsequently be transferred to high-security beds in the vacated CRDF and allow a more appropriate inmate housing plan to be administered throughout the jail system.

Sybil Brand Institute Refurbishment

Programming for the PDC barracks and SBI refurbishment, an essential first step in the design phase, was initiated in September 2006. In early 2007, a preliminary facility program was submitted to the State Correctional Standards Authority (CSA) for review and comment. CSA, which maintains authority over the design and operation of detention facilities in California, subsequently advised us during the early summer that current building and operational standards would be required for the SBI refurbishment due to the extended period of its closure. It became apparent during the development of the refurbishment plans that the application of the current standards on housing for female mental health inmates and the inmate reception center would require an expansion of the facility's footprint and an attendant increase in refurbishment/construction costs.

The facility program for SBI was completed earlier this month and submitted to CSA for approval with the assumption that female inmate reception center and housing for female mental health inmates would be developed at a different site. CSA has indicated it hopes to finalize its review in early November 2007. It will withhold final approval of the SBI facility program until the inmate reception center and mental health housing issues have been addressed.

To resolve these issues, we are currently reviewing the feasibility of locating the female inmate reception center and mental health inmates at PDC, or in a new facility at Men's Central Jail (MCJ), with the Sheriff, Public Works, and the Department of Mental Health. Completion of the facility program for PDC has been extended to accommodate this review. We expect a final recommendation to be developed within the next few weeks.

Men's Central Jail

The feasibility of locating the female inmate reception center and mental health inmates at the MCJ site is being studied in conjunction with the development of a MCJ facility plan that has been undertaken in response to issues raised by the ACLU and Federal court. These latter issues revolve around male inmate overcrowding, supervision, safety, the provision of adequate indoor/outdoor recreation time, and inadequate facility conditions at MCJ and the male inmate reception center.

While the Sheriff has made significant changes in its custody operations to alleviate inmate overcrowding at MCJ and the inmate reception center, the Sheriff's efforts in the remaining areas of concern have been, to varying degrees, constrained by the physical configuration of the MCJ facility. We are currently finalizing recommendations for a MCJ facility plan that will address the remaining issues raised by the ACLU and federal court, as well as the feasibility of integrating a female inmate reception center and housing for female mental health inmates.

Presentation of Final Recommendations for a Revised Jail Facility Plan

The Revised Plan will provide finalized facility programs for PDC and SBI and a revised facility program for the female inmate reception center and female mental health inmates. A conceptual facility plan for MCJ that addresses concerns of the ACLU and Federal court will be included, along with updated project schedules and estimates of one-time capital and ongoing operating costs. Finally, a funding plan that will preserve your Board's discretion and allow your Board to manage timing of the Revised Plan's implementation within available County resources will be presented for consideration.

We are planning to present the Revised Plan to your Board at your November 27, 2007 meeting.

I am available to discuss this with you at your convenience, or your staff may contact Jan Takata at (213) 974-1360.

WTF:DL:DC
JSE:DJT:z

c: Sheriff
Department of Mental Health
Department of Public Works
American Civil Liberties Union